JANUARY 1996

# RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

## HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1996.

What will the new year bring to Radio Amateurs in Canada? There are good indications that the present poor HF conditions will be improving as the year progresses. The conditions should be at the lowest ebb point by mid-year and then start improving as we run into 1997. Please, do not shoot the messenger, if the Sun does not cooperate, it is anybody's guess what will happen! The 40-metre band will continue to have some QRM from the broadcasting powerhouses, we cannot avoid this situation. What is a very interesting phenomenon is the broadcasting QRM originating from Europe that is now heard in the phone portion of the 80-metre band. These *domestic* broadcasts from Germany, France, United Kingdom and a few other countries will continue to be heard here during the winter months for many more years.

Looking at my crystal ball I can see that each and every one of the present **RAC** members will recruit one new member, and by the end of 1996 **RAC** will have in its membership 36% of all the Canadian amateur radio operators! And in 1997 we could then double this number again... Perhaps an impossible dream, but even editors are permitted to dream in Technicolour©!

It is quite possible that we will see in 1996, the start of the devolution of some of the tasks presently accomplished by *Industry Canada* to a new corporation under the aegis of **RAC.** As in any new venture, we will have to be patient as new procedures are developed by the new corporation to properly, effectively and efficiently discharge its mandate and serve the ham community in Canada.

In the next few months, we will be collating the results of the survey, initiated last month, on the distribution and the content of the **RAC** Monthly Bulletin. Some of the comments that have reached this desk are very informative and seem to represent a good cross-section of the present readership. Members are also using the survey to air their pet peeves about **RAC** and also, in some cases, against equipment manufacturers!

CONTENTS

*HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1996.* ..... 1
*BULLETIN EDITORSHIP* ..... 2
*RAC Section Manager Election Results* ..... 2
*VA3PM, NEW FIELD SERVICES MANAGER* .... 2
*CORRECTION* ..... 3
*RFI HANDBOOK* ..... 3
*"SKYRIDER" TNC CONTROL PROGRAM* ..... 3
*NEW NORTH AMERICAN NETWORK* ..... 3
*HIGHEST REPEATERS (AGAIN!)* ..... 4
*C & E Museum, CFB Kingston* ..... 4
*JAWS/HAWS* ..... 4

There is another symbol appearing in the hazy window of my crystal ball: it reads **RCI**. The fate of *Radio Canada International* will be decided in the next few months. What the outcome will be is difficult topredict but I know that many amateur radio operators have already written letters in support of **RCI**. I cannot comprehend why a country would decide to stop its international broadcasting at a time where it is important for all countries to show themselves to the outside world in the best light possible. Even the small emerging countries in Africa and Asia know this and promote themselves, their goods and their way of life using international broadcasting.

# BULLETIN EDITORSHIP

There are some misconceptions about the editorial process of the bulletin and it is important to clarify who does what in the process, so that you can direct your fire at the right person.

The complete monthly Bulletin is prepared by Jacques **VE3VIA**. **"He is solely responsible for the editorial content of the Bulletin"**, and from the comments received since September, it would appear that some editorials have created waves. That is one of the reasons why those editorials were written.

At the same time as the final hard copy of the Bulletin is sent to the "printer", a.k.a "the volunteer photocopying/mailing crew at RAC headquarters", an electronic version is sent to Steve **VE3GRS** for insertion on the following media: Packet, a large E-Mail mailing list and the various Internet Newsgroups. A copy of the same electronic version is sent to Neil **VE3PUE** for insertion in the **RAC** Homepage.

The **RAC** Bulletin is now appearing in unusual places around the world and through the Internet can be accessed via links back to the **RAC** Homepage from at least 20 to 30 various amateur or shortwave radio sites. The Bulletin is being read and comments are being received from readers around the world.

# RAC Section Manager Election Results

Congratulations to John Avery **VE9IW** who was recently re-elected Maritimes-Newfoundland Section Manager for a two year term of office that will begin on April 01, 1996. John ran unopposed, eliminating the need for a balloted election.

# VA3PM, NEW FIELD SERVICES MANAGER

The Board of Directors of **Radio Amateurs of Canada** is pleased to announce the appointment of Pierre Mainville, **VA3PM** as **RAC** Field Services Manager. He will take responsibility for **RAC**'s Field Organization effective January 1, 1995. Pierre is an outstanding amateur and supporter of Amateur Radio. He was first licensed in 1972 and has served with distinction in many capacities over the years. He has served the Field Organization in both ARES and NTS since 1979 when he was appointed as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator, becoming Emergency Coordinator in 1981 and Section Emergency Coordinator in 1991. Pierre is an Assistant Director for **RAC**'s Ontario South Region.

The Board expresses its deep appreciation to Alberta Region al Director Ken Oelke, **VE6AFO**, for his distinguished and tireless service on behalf of the Field Organization . As Field Services Manager, and in other capacities such as Section Manager for both **CRRL** and **RAC**, Ken's experience, skill, dedication and hard work has been a major contribution to the stability and continuity of the Field Organization.

# CORRECTION

In the November issue of the Bulletin, it was reported in the "Election Results" that only 44% of the eligible ballots had been returned in the Alberta/NWT election, in fact **59%** of the eligible ballots had been returned. (Operator finger trouble!) It is still a very poor showing for a democratic society.

# RFI HANDBOOK

The *FCC* Interference Handbook is now available on the Internet. The 22 page booklet, available from the Compliance and Information Bureau via the FCC World Wide Web home page, includes the same information and illustrations contained in the recently published Interference to Home Electronic Entertainment Equipment Handbook. It includes information about equipment installation, identifying interference sources, curing interference problems, and filters. It also contains a list of home electronic equipment manufacturers and telephone numbers. Pictures illustrate different TV interference problems, including ham or CB transmitter interference. The Interference Handbook is available on the World Wide Web at:

**http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Compliance/WWW/tvibook.html.**

(Ed. note: most of the addresses listed in the book are for the USA manufacturers but at least it is a starting point.)

# "SKYRIDER" TNC CONTROL PROGRAM

Are you looking for a TNC control program that will operate well under the Windows environment? Well, get a copy and try SkyRider written by Bob Rushby **VE3GLA**. This software, written to simplify the use of the MFJ 1278 family of TNC, was reviewed in the December edition of *CQ* by **W8FX** and Karl had some very good comments on this shareware program.

# NEW NORTH AMERICAN NETWORK

**VE3HHS/W4** is initiating a North American Network (NAN) to operate as an informal net for establishing communications with other amateurs or passing traffic. He plans to operate on the following frequencies and times:

| Frequency (MHz) | Time |
|---|---|
| 3.760 | 06:00-07:00 EST (11:00-12:00 UTC) |
| 7.160 | 07:00-08:00 EST (12:00-13:00 UTC) |
| 14.160 | 08:00-09:00 EST (13:00-14:00 UTC) |

All amateurs are invited to drop in to the NAN.

# HIGHEST REPEATERS (AGAIN!)

The provincial honour is at stake here: BC vs Alberta! I have been sworn to secrecy, but it would appear that someone is getting ready to set up a new VHF repeater in the Rockies that will top anything in existence in Canada. Stay tuned!

I am expecting to hear about a repeater mounted on a balloon that will circle the globe but spend more time over Canada. I have wrongly interchanged the words altitude and height, this new repeater would be at an ALTITUDE much higher than anything we have seen so far. I would love to see the coverage maps of these repeaters! For those on packet and on E-Mail who have requested the locations of the 2 highest, I will reproduce below what has been sent to me by two different sources in the same city.

**VE6HWY** on 147.33+ is located on Protection Mountain and is said to be at an altitude of 3041 metres/9975 feet.
**VE7KNP** is located on the shoulder of Mt. Isabella at an altitude of 9748 feet.

Once again the Editor is completely neutral and only reports what is sent to him from the authorized sources.

# C & E Museum, CFB Kingston

Work on the new Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Museum is continuing at a brisk pace. The building was handed over from the contractor in early Nov 95 and much of the research collection has already been moved. Next to move will be the old displays and at the same time many new displays are being built. As well as showing the chronological history of the C&E Branch, the museum will show the development of various technologies. The centre piece of the "Radio Technology" area will be the **VE3RCS** club station with 1945 vintage equipment (W.S. No. 19, High Power), 1970's vintage equipment (Heath HW-101 & SB-220 station) and 1995 vintage equipment (Kenwood TS-450 station). The intent is to have all three stations fully operational.

This $5 million project is funded largely by donations from C&E Branch members and corporate sponsors. Some grants have also been received from municipal, provincial and federal governments. The grand opening is scheduled for 17 May 1996. For further information contact **VE3RCS @ VE3CDY.#EON.ON.CAN.NA**

# JAWS/HAWS

I am helping Dennis Stossel with research he is doing on the story of the Joint Arctic Weather Stations (**JAWS**) which became the High Arctic Weather Stations (**HAWS**) when the United States withdrew in 1971/72. Their 50th Anniversary is coming up in 1997, and there's a move to have a reunion at Resolute Bay of **JAWS/HAWS** polar veterans if there's enough interest. We are trying to gather information about Canadians and Americans who worked at the **JAWS** in Eureka, Resolute Bay, Isachsen, Mould Bay and Alert, especially in 1947-1951. We are interested in names, dates and anecdotes.

Dennis and the group working with him in Winnipeg are ex DOE managers, and will cover the meteorological and scientific aspects. I would like to be able to help them out with the radio side of things, particularly the amateur aspects. Amateur radio played a big part in the lives of those living on the stations. Charlie Harris, **VE6HM**, Brit Fader **VE1FQ**, Stan Surber **W9NZZ** and Fred Bissette **VE3AIU** were among the best known in my time in the North.

Many commercial operators were, like myself, active amateurs. I would like to be able to add a few facts about the amateur radio operations. When did the first amateur contact take place? How was the **VE8MA**, **MB**, **MC** series chosen? What kind of equipment was used? What services did amateur radio provide?: etc

I would be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of any amateurs who may have been at the stations who might be able to help with information, as well as other amateurs who (like those mentioned above) maintained close ties with the stations.

Any information would be welcomed. I can be contacted, preferably by Internet at:

**jgilbert@fox.nstn.ca** or alternatively by phone (613)724-1266 or Fax (613) 724-3783.or by mail at 714 Highland Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario. K2A 2K7

John Gilbert, **VE3CXL** (ex **VE8OW,** Eureka 1956-58)

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All material in the Bulletin may be reprinted but please credit the Bulletin, the original author, and the original publication if one is given.

Please submit original stories or information to the editor before the 5th of the month of publication.( I am still waiting..Ed .)

Annual subscriptions to RAC News Bulletin are available by mailing $10 before September 1. Subscription expires every August 31.

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**Thank you to the Club Bulletin and Newsletter Editors who include the RAC membership application in your regular mailings to members. The RAC membership fees increased slightly on January 1, 1996, so we are including a new form here for your use:**

Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.
Administrative Office
614 Norris Court, Unit 6
Kingston, Ontario
K7P 2R9
Phone: 613-634-4184 Fax: 613-634-7118

New Application ☐ Renewal ☐

Name_____ Call Sign_____

Address_____

City_____, Prov._____ P.Code_____

Visa/MC #_____ _____ _____ _____ Exp._____

Signature_____

*Families may subscribe to RAC by paying the basic fee of $38.00 per year, plus $20.00 for each additional person who wishes to use the services of the organization (one copy of TCA per family membership). Please include the extra names and callsigns with the application.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 year individual membership | @$38.00 | _____ |
| List additional family members | @$20.00 | _____ |
| | @$20.00 | _____ |
| **Please credit club account number _____ with my membership purchase/renewal.** | @$20.00 | _____ |
| | TOTAL | _____ |

Payment must accompany application. All payments in Canadian funds.
Make cheque payable to: Radio Amateurs of Canada. Do not postdate.